

Chystory of Jacob & his xii. sones.



All yonge and olde that lyue for to here
 Of dedes done in the olde tyme
 By the holy patryarkes that there were
 Whiche descended of olde Adams lyne.
 Often yf sone of grace on them dyde shyne
 For to rede this storyt it wyll do you moche good
 Of Abrahams sone that was syth Noes flood.
 Unto one Rebekah this ysaac was marryed
 Of age the byble sayth he was. xl. yere
 In dede his maydenhede so longe with hym taried.
 Jacob.

And yet in longe tyme his wyfe no chyldre bere
Than to our lord god he made his prayere
For to sende hym fruyte this worlde to multiply.
And tha his wyfe conceyued as scripture doth speyfy.
Two chyl dren in dede had Rebecca in her body
And whan they were quycke often tymes they fought
This good woman than meruayled gretely.
What it myght be and take grette thought.
Than nychely our lord god she besought
To haue some knowledge what it myght sygnifye.
She toke so grette sorowe þ the teares fell fro her eye
Our lord that all knoweth sawe how she fared.
With sobbyng and syghyng euer more cryenge.
Of his grette goodnes unto her he appered.
And woman seale thy grette wepyng
Two maner of people in thy body is spryngyng.
That shall be deliuered fro thy wombe shortly.
Of the whiche the feble shall ouercome the myghty
At the laste her tyme nyghed very nere.
The thowes sore chylled her thurgh with payne.
All her body was faynte apalled was her chere
So deliuered she was of sayre chyl dren thre.
The fyrst that yssued was rough Elau called by name
Than folowed Jacob his broders for to holdyng
Fast in his hande this was a meruaylous thyng
Whan that they drew to age thele two brether
Elau was a plowman a tyller of lande.
And for pleasure ofte wolde he be a hunter
To walke early and late with bowe in his hande
Jacob was so simple at home wolde he stande
Alwaye with his moder for she loued hym better

Than euer she dyde Esau a thousande tymes sweeted
 Esau was best beloued yet with the father.
 Because he ete ofte of the brymson that he toke
 And Jacob was in fauoure with Rebecca his moder
 Thus maye ye fynde yf that ye wylle loke
 Esau wente on hunting thus sayd the boke
 All a daye tog yder without meete or byde
 That whā he came home for hunger he was nye dede.
 Whā he came to the hall he sawe Jacob stande
 Thereto his dynner than was Esau fayne.
 Holdynge a dysh of potage in his hande
 Alacke sayd Esau for hunger nowe do I complayne.
 In all this worlde is no gretter payne
 I praye the brother of thy potage let me ete with the
 Raynolds sayd Jacob thou gettest none of me
 But if thou wylte sayd Jacob sell me thy herptage
 In sayth of these thou gettest neuer a dele
 And yf thou wylte do so holde here this potage
 For sayntnes than Esau to the grounde sell
 And sayd rather than dye my patrymony I wylle sell
 Nothyng wolde it profyte me yf I dyed for hunger
 For my bely weneth my throte is cut asonder.
 I am cōtent sayd Esau yf thou take it for thy potage
 Well than sayd Jacob yf thou wylte respyne
 I wylle haue the swere that as for thyne herptage.
 Thou shalt neuer clayme and here lye hande in myne
 Dore Esau thought it longe or that he myght dye
 And sayd vnto Jacob nowe take it for euer
 Thy potage in my hande haue had I leuer.
 This bargayne was knyght bothe ptyes were glad.
 Esau ete the potage therof he was fayne
 Jacob.

And I trowe Jacob had no cause to be sadde
His brothers heritage there dyde he clayne
Thesepromys made bytwene them twayne
And than Jacob thought to lye full meryly
With the lande that Esau dyde set full lytell by.
¶ At the last they fader wared blynde & myght not se
And on a daye he called Esau his sone
ysaac sayd chyld Esau come hyder to me
For my lyfe dayes be nere hande done
Therfore go forthe and fetch me some benyson
And as soone as thou doost it home brynge
Come and thou shalt haue my blessyng
¶ Esau dyde on his harnys for drede of bestes wyld
By his gyrdell arrows and in his hande a bowe
And than by his owne moder Esau was begyled
For as soone as rebecca dyde it knowe
Forth she called Jacob and to hym dyde shewe
All togyder and sayd sone yf thou wylt do after me
Esau shal lese his faders blessyng for he shall gyue it y
¶ Go thou to the flocke and fetch me kyddes twayne
The best that amonge them maye be founde
Than Jacob of this counsyle was full fayne
To the felde hastid hym swyftely in that stounde.
And chace the best that were goynge in that grounde.
Than home to his moder he them brought
So poore Esau was begyled that no fals hede thought
¶ That of y kyddes fleshe Rebecca sodde grete plante
And made ysaac ete it in steede of benyson
Loo the blynde often drynketh many a flye
Than the moder made Jacob to take y kyddes slyp
To wrappe his handes his face and his necke therin
Well sayd Rebecca yf thy fader felte the rough of here

He wylt beleue none other but that thou Esau were
 ¶ Olde ysaac the blinde began to wepe hongry
 And called Rebecca and sayd that he wolde ete.
 Suche as she had he prayd her swyftely.
 Hote or elles colde hym for to gete
 Rebecca answered and sayd ye shall haue mete.
 For Esau hath brought plente of venyson
 Why sayd Jacob is he come home so soone
 ¶ Ye sayd Rebecca he is come I wots
 I lest he hath he brought I sawe neuer none better
 In all my lyfe neuer fatter than it is
 Syth ye were borne neuer ete yf wetter
 I am glad sayd ysaac I loue hym the better
 Than Rebecca sette therof ysaac for to please
 He was hongry and ete fast & made hym well at ease
 ¶ Than Jacob spake to his fader for blessinge.
 And on the grounde he kneled on his kne
 Fader he sayd this venyson home dyde I bynge
 Nowe I haue fulfylled that the whiche ye bad me
 Why sayd ysaac arte thou Esau and he sayd ye
 To fele thy skynne sayd ysaac I haue grete luste
 And yf thou be Esau I shall the knowe I truste
 ¶ Than Jacob rose and wente to his fadere
 And sayd to hym wylt ye fele my hande.
 Than ysaac felte it roughe all of here
 He wende it had ben Esau that by hym dyde stande
 But alas he wandred ouer the lande.
 Amonge bushes and brambles he dyde ron.
 And no knowledg had he of this grete treason.
 ¶ I knowe well sayd ysaac that thou arte Esau
 And by speche I wold take the for Jacob.
 Jacob.

Nowe blessyd be this daye that ever I it knewe
For thou shalt be mayster of many a lande byde
and haue the blessinge of the heuently lorde
Therefore come hyder let me kysse thy mouth.
All men shall obey to the bothe by northe and southe
¶ Where ever thou become thou shalt haue plente
All the trybes shall euer worshyp thy name
With the peas wyll dwell and all prosperyte
They that the curseth shall be cursed agayne
The for to please men wyll be full fayne.
And the sones of theyr mothers shall bowe to the
Batayles many þ shalt wyne bothe by laude & see.
¶ Than Jacob rose and wente his waye.
With that came Esau that moche benyson brought
And bare it to his fader and thus dyde he saye
Fader this fleshe full ferre haue I sought
So sodeyn y ysaac was smyten with a thought.
And sayd what arte thou fro whens doost thou come
For sothe I am Esau your fyrst begoten sone
¶ Ysaac meruyled more thā may be thought credybyl
In longe or he myght speke in a traunce laye
As the mayster of the story sayd so dyde he lye styll
Lyke as the soule from the body had ben awaye
Whan he dyde speke of good lorde dyde he saye.
Thy wyll is that Jacob sholde haue my blessinge.
yet loued I Esau abone all erthely thyng
¶ Who was that sayd Ysaac þ brought me þ benyson
Euen now that I had ther with dyde I dyue
I wende it had ben Esau myne owne sone.
Alas sayd Esau fader that blessinge sholde be myne
Jacob hath me begyled now the seconde tyme.

Longe agone also for a mese of potage
He had my pattymony that was myne herysage.
¶ Alas sayd Esau my herte is very woo
and sayd fader haue ye not one blessinge for me
I truste that all frome me be not agoo
ysaac sayd sone there is no remedy.
I haue ordeyned hym to be thy lord ouer the.
Thou shalt obey thy breder & lyue by thy swerde.
All that beholdeth thy face shall be afcrde
¶ Rebecca wende þ Esau Jacob wolde haue slayne.
And bad hym hys and go out of his daungere
Unto thyn owne vncle that dwelleth in arayne
For and thou tary thy lyfe standeth in fere
Esau wyll the kyll I herde hym so swere
Therefore in all the hast Jacob be gone
And whan his angre is past agayne come home.
¶ Than Jacob departed from Barfabe
And wente full fast towarde arayne.
ysaac and Rebecca wepte full pyteously
So Jacob hysed ouer heth and playne.
The lone drowe downe his rest he wolde haue sayne
And as he slepte hym thought that he dyde se
A longe ladder stretchynge to the skye.
¶ Angelles goynge bpwarde he sawe also
And in the myddes almyghty god dyde stande.
That sayd to hym I wyll blyse þ where euer thou go.
And to thy sede I wyll gyue t hys lande.
That thou doost on slepe it shall be in thy hande;
for I am the god of Abraham that thou doost se
And I caused ysaac his blessinge to gyue the
¶ Than Jacob rose on the mornynge early.

And sayd that there was the gate of heuē
Of all the erthe that place was moost holy
And thanked god for that whiche he had sene
And vnder his hede a stone that was full clene
He rered vp and set it on the ende
There prayed he god good fortune hym to sende
¶ Than Jacob wente forth in to the east
Tyll he came to a grete pyt of water
Thre flocke of shepe with many another beest.
He sawe howe they laye all in that corne
¶ Than he thought they wolde drynke of that water
A custome men had to roll awaye the stone
The beestes sholde go and drynke euerychone
¶ Jacob sawe shepherdes fro hym not very for
And asked of whens they were & they sayd of Arayne.
Knowe you Laban sayd Jacob sone of Nabor
They all answered we knowe hym for certayne
Loo sye yonder cometh Rachell we tell you playne
That is Labans doughter with his flocke of shepe.
God saue þe kynrede sayd Jacob & fro care them kepe
¶ Than Jacob wente and kysled Rachell full sweetely
And tolde her that Rebecca was his moder
Rachell was glad of that tydynges truely
Eche of them made grete Joye of other
Of curtesy Jacob coude do none other.
With strength pulled the stone fro the pyttes byrnie
What Rachelles shepe therof myght drynke
¶ Than Rachell bare tydynges to her fader
That Jacob Rebeccaes sone was come
Laban was glad that tydynges to here
And for to mete hym hastely he dyde ronne

The foules were neuer gladder of the lyght of p[er]some
Than were they twa yne for eche salced other
For Laban was Jacobs uncle Rebeccas chone brother
¶ There Jacob dyde them playnly to vnderstande
That he had wonne his faders blessinge
The gladder was Laban to haue hym in that lande
He thought that plente sholde growe of every thyng
Bothe sowe and grasse grete plente wolde sp[ri]nge
Laban prayed Jacob there to lede his lyfe
And he wolde gete hym Rachell to be his wyfe
¶ There Jacob promysed to serue them vii. yere
With hym to abyde and he bothe true and playne
And for to haue Rachell to be his fere
Eyth[er] of that bargayne was full sayue
All his yeres he serued bothe in colde and rayne
And on a day Laban maryed Jacob to Rachel his childe
But as they were in bed brought Jacob was begyled
¶ The elder doughter that was called Lea
They brought to Jacobs bedde vnknowynge
To hym and all nyght by his syde laye
But whan he sawe her in the morninge
He sayd there was vnknowynge deluge
To byrge hym Lea for saye Rachell
Jacob sayd to Laban this dede lyketh me not well
¶ If any sayd Laban it is the lawe of this lande
That the elder doughter first maryed sholde be
Bothe Lea and Rachell thou shalt haue in thy hande
But other seven yere thou must dwell with me
Therto I graunt sayd Jacob these yeres wyll I serue
And the nexte wyke agayne wyll I be maryed
Unto saye Rachell for her longe haue I taryed

To bothe was he married Rachell bode long: barayne
But Lea conceived and bare her chyld Rubyne
For Jacob loued Rachell in euery dayne.
Better than euer he dyde Lea for all her chyldren
For she was somewhat blete eyed and had sore eyes
yet she bare hym .x. sones the bokelapth playne.
Where as Rachell brought hym forth but twayne
¶ Jacob thought in that countre he had longe taryed
With labour he bode out full. xiiii. yere.
¶ Than when his hole terme he had out serued
He sayd to Rachell I wyll tary no longer here
Nowe to Barisabe wyll I go I nede not to fere
As for Elau my broder I trust wyll be my frende.
What euer me betyde to my countre wyll I wende.
¶ Jacob sayd to Laban that to Barisabe he wolde
Laban bad hym byde with hym that yere
And what euer he asked haue it he sholde
I desyre sayd he the lambes of dyuers color
And yf thou wylte graunte me that to my byre
With all other beestes that blacke spotted be
And so: all this thurthe monethes I wyll byde with the
¶ Bothe beestes and lambes I gyue the sayd Laban
All that euer blacke spotted be
Clayme them for thyne when they come fro the dawe.
¶ Than sayd Jacob for this byre I wyll byde with the
In sayth sayd Laban it shall not be broken for me.
So Jacob pyllid reddes where the shepe sholde gone
Beestes & lambes were spotted yf yere nre euery shone.
¶ The nexte yere after Laban sayd he wolde
Haue all the spotted and Jacob than the whyte.
To his parte in dede he haue sholde.

Our lord for Jacob she wed his myght
That all the bestes or lambes that sell daye or myght.
They were cleue whete the moost parte Iwoys
Than was he wyth þ his flocke was bygger thā his.
¶ Jacob spyed that Laban frotoned of there
And tolde pryncely his wyfe Rachel
That he wolde be gone for he Laban dyde fere
¶ Than he conuayed all his herdmen softely and styll
And had them bye w the bestes to galarde þ hys byll
Bothe with asses and camelles they der make byenge
And my wyues w my .xii. sones after wyll I byenge
¶ So forth wente Jacob bothe with good and catell
And sent worde þ he was compnge to Elau his broder
Laban mysed Jacob and had grete meruell
He knewe þ he was gone and se it wolde be none other.
yet wolde I kysse my daughters for I am theyr fader.
It was tolde hym by a man of that countrey
That iacob was at mount galard of. bil. dayes iourney
¶ Then Laban rode after thus sayth the boke.
On a good camell bothe upght and daye.
yet at the last he Jacob overtok
He asked of hym whether he wolde that waye.
Unto my countre sayd Jacob who wyll saye naye
Not I sayd Laban but my chyldren kysse I wolde
And thy .xii. sones also I loue better than golde
¶ There of all his byrde Laban toke his leue
And asked Jacob why he wente so hasty.
you were wythe sayd Jacob and that dyde I prync
yet .xx. yere I haue serued the busye
In colde and in rayne attends to thy husbandry
And to go from the lord only I was full fayne

Lest thou by some treason me wolde haue slayne.
Say nay sayd Laban I wolde not do so.
But for all the treasure of Egypte
I am for that thou wylte from us go
With thy asses camelles and thy shepe.
I praye the Jacob my daughters well to kepe.
And I trust than our lord god wyl blisse the.
That thy grandfather worshipped (one) in steede of thee.
So Jacob and Laban toke leue eche of other.
And departed there with full heuyn chere.
Laban prayed Jacob to remaunde hys to his brother.
So forth they went and whan Elau dyde here.
That towards the countre Jacob drew nere.
Elau met hym with foure hondred of men.
So sore afraide was iust Jacob as he was then.
He wende that Elau wolde hym haue slayne.
And with his chyldren fell to his brothers feyn.
I praye sayd Elau of your comynge I am fayne.
Whole be these women these chyldren and these shepe.
With asses and camelles all this herde of geete.
They be myne sayd Jacob I gyue them to you.
Kepe them thyselfe sayd Elau for I haue knowe.
That was Jacob and his wyues glad.
That his brother Elau was so good and kynde.
In that countre met and dwelt they had.
For as god hym prayd to so dyde he.
Ysaac his fader was ded that he left the charynde.
Whan that he to the countre of sydon floyde.
Rebecca his moder also was ded.
Than Jacob in the countre spede of his case.
With both his wyues Rachel and Leah.

ponge and olde fayne w^{re} hym to please
So they contynued in Joye many a longe daye.
At the last Jacobs sone in a bedde laye
Whiche was broder to Benyamp.
Bothe were Rachelles sones she had no more truly.
This Joseph in his slepe dyde dreame
That the sone & the mone bothe bowed to his fete.
And sayre bryght sterres to the nombre of alieuen
Bowed to hym all this dyde he mete.
Also he sawe a wonder that many sheues of whete
Flooded hym thughe out the lande.
And his fader & moder at his fete dyde stande
Cponge Joseph met mayled what that myght be
And on a daye he asked of Jacob his fader.
What that the dreame dyde sygnefye
And tolde his fader all as is reherled before
Blessyd be the tyme sone sayd Jacob & thou were bore.
For whyle that I lyue that daye shall we se
That I with my .xi. bretherne for nede must seke the
The sone & the mone betokeneth me and thy moder.
And the alieuen sterres be thy bretherne all.
We shall haue nede of the I can se none other.
By my lyfe dayes this aduenture shall befall.
All his sones than Jacob dyde forth call.
And whan they this knewe at Joseph they had enuye
Than they compyls his deeth & sayd & he shold dye
Not longe after I vnderstande
The .xi. bretherne kepte they faders shepe
With many other bestes in they owne lande
As asses/camelles/and also gete
A boute tyme of the daye Jacob sente them mete
Jacob. B.i.

Therwith to dyne by Joseph they: owne broder
And all they entended that yonge chyld to murder
¶ Doore Joseph toke they: dyner & wente to the felde
His bretherne to seke the nerte waye dyde he go
He loked on euery syde and behelde
Them he coude not fynde he wepte than for wo
The teres ran from his eyen / and not ferre hym fro
He sawe a man that alked what he had brought
My brethernes dyner for them haue I sought
¶ Thy bretherne layd the man be on dotayne
There they all syt on the hye hyll
Beware thou ladde I tell the playne
If thou be Joseph they wyll the kyll
Therfore tourne home agayne & let them be styll
Without thou be wery of thy lyfe
One layd for thy dreame thou sholdest dye on a knyfe
¶ Syr I trust my bretherne better than so
yet vnto dotayne they: doner be bere
Loo yonder cometh Joseph they all sayd tho
Whiche by nyght is so royall a dreame
All tho his herte ought to be in fere
For his fader shall he neuer se none of his byrne
yet now do after my counseyle than layd Rubyn
¶ Rubyn sayd bretherne he is of our owne blode
Let vs not kyll hym with swerde nor knyfe
But bynde we his handes and laye hym on the flosse
Stone the streame wyll bereue hym of his lyfe
So toke they Joseph that thought on no styfe
And wrapped his sherte aboute his face
And layde hym on the flosse there was no grace
¶ But as god wolde it was chynge water

Soone wente they to dyner and after to theyr playe.
And as they looked from thence a fette.
They sawe poore Joseph spawlynge where he laye.
All arayed in foule oile and claye.
Let vs go they sayd and kyll hym out ryght.
We nede not than to fete y^e he dreamed the last nyght.
¶ Thyder they wente and take vp that yonglynge.
Haue mercy on me bretherne Joseph gan saye.
With that they sawe a chapman come rydynge.
Had many hors loden and to Egypte toke the waye.
They asked y^e chapman yf he wolde bye Joseph or nay.
And he sayd ye and ye wyll hym sell.
To you .xxx. pens for hym gyue I wyll.
¶ Let vs se money sayd they all than.
And as for the boye shall go with the.
With all my herte sayd the chapman.
• He layde the pens in theyr handes shortly.
And thought y^e he had made a good dayes Journaye.
So toke his leue and wente his waye.
But Joseph weped and wayled every daye.
¶ Now god helpe poore Joseph for yonge was he solde.
All his bretherne therof were glad in theyr mode.
Nyght drewe on fast homewarde they wolde.
Theyr mete cloth they bespronge all with gotes bloode.
Jacob theyr fader in his doze stode.
Why come ye home so soone he to them dyde saye.
They answered that they ete nor dranke todaye.
¶ Jacob sayd I sente Joseph to you longe before gone.
With mete breede and drynke good plente.
They sayd fader homewarde as we dyde come.
This mete cloth here we founde all bloody.

Jacob.

W. II.

A pot there lyeth broken also in peces thre
Alas alas sayd Jacob I trowe Joseph be dede
And yf it be so with sorowe I shall ere my brede
Rachel tare her heere and fell downe to þe grounde.
And tare her clothes in peces small
Jacob also ofte sythes he swoonde
And sayd Joseph is gone my chefe Joye of all
But Rachel often wepyng wold the fall
And bete her brest agayne the herte with a colde stone.
Þyete it was to here her crye and grone.
Howe leue we of and speke we of the chapman
That past ouer the see in to Egypte lande
But truely o he thyder came
The wynde st yfly agayne them dyde stande
And yet at the last an hauen they founde
The chapman ledde Joseph with a rope in the strete
Hym for to bycame many a lorde grete
Knyghtes and ladyes came ferre that chylde to se
With many grete men of pharaos lande
It was talked abrode that he was so goodly
And whan pharaos stewarde that dyde vnderstande
He asked the chylde that to the chapman was bonde
If he wolde be his man and dwell with hym
Than Joseph answered I wyll be at your byddyng.
The stewarde to the chapman an. C. pounde payde
Of lytell Joseph that of face was bryght
I haue lost no money than the marchaunt sayde,
yet for his braute he is worth of golde his weyght.
And euery body that of Joseph had a syght
They thought he had ben an aungell of pleasaunce
He was so fayre and lovely of countenaunce.

Ladys and maydens they loued Ioseph all
And men dyde blyss hym whan they dyde se
So goodly a chyld carued in the hall
And meruayled of what countre he myght be.
The stewarde had a syster beyonde the se
She sente hym a serket and a mantell of golde
The rychenesse therof may not be tolde
Couched with perles and stones p[re]cious
With saphers/ rubyes/ and other stones of ynde.
Of many dyuers colours set full curous
Costly brouded with arres as If ynde
Chaungeable of colour before and behynde
These ryche clothes this lady sente to her brother
In all the worlde there was not luche another.
The stewarde behelde that costly werke
And on his body ware it but one daye
By a large for hym it was to horte
If it wolde serue Iosephe he thoughte he wolde assaye
And cladde the chyld in that costly araye
And it was as well made for hym.
As euer was besture to the emperours kyn
On a daye the stewarde wolde on huntynge ryde
Than the quene called Ioseph in to her boure.
And made hym to syt downe by her syde
She wolde haue kyssed hym and behelde his colour
And sayd that she loued hym as her paramoure
And besought hym of her to take his pleaser
Ray god for bede sayd he to dye were me leuer
She profered hym sayre bothe castelles and toures.
And all the pyre of Egypte he sholde haue
This she sayd to hym with halles and boures.

Jacob.

B.iii.

And more p[er] helle yf he wolde it craue
f[or] sykenes the ladyd his body wolde he saue
And asked therof yf he graunte wolde
He answered shortly that nothyng he shoulde
¶ He ladyd madame I wyll be true to my lord
Traytour wyll I neuer be to my soursyne
Therfore byleue me at a worde
Rather than do so I had leue be slayne
With þ[is] lounde dyde she crye & brake her lace in twayne
And smote her nose that it gushyd all on bloode
And rente do bene her serket þ[is] was of sylke full good
¶ She tolde þ[is] knyghtes þ[is] Joseph wolde by her layne
And that he tare her robes all asonder
And helpe had not comethis these had me slayne
Than all the court therof dyde wonder
That he durste pull her lace asonder
God wote it came neuer of his thought
But full grete treason by wyemen hath he wrought
¶ At nyght it was shewed to the kynge
How such a trespass to the quene was done
He commaunded Joseph in prysen than to bynge
I charge you ladyd pharaos þ[is] traytour fetch he soone
Than downe to the towne Joseph was gone
They take and put hym a dongeon grete
Comfortles there he laye without drynke or mete
¶ Than þ[is] baker & þ[is] butler y[et] had be seruantes longe
Wrothed pharaos that was theyr lord and kynge
Also they were brought to that prysen stronge
Where Joseph gyteles alone laye therin
Grete hongre he suffered with wepyng & waylyng
At the last bothe butler & baker bare hym company

For in the same pryson by hyll dydett eyle.
¶ Thā these ii. men ynto the dongeon were brought.
They had meruaylous drems there on a nyght.
The butler in y vyncyard a cup of wyne he thought.
He had in his hande all in Pharaos syght.
Lodes & ladyes dranke therof both squire & knyght.
Andauer he had the grapes in his cup holdynge.
All the people dranke & neuertheles was the wyne.
¶ The baker thought that he hilde on his sholder
A lepe full of brede that was newe bake.
Than came there wyldes foules y fro hym dyde it bere.
And euen with that he sodeynly gan wake.
So vnto Joseph these wordes than they spake
Of theyr drems and all the trouth tolde
They prayed hym to shewe what it sygnifye sholde.
¶ Joseph sayd baker thou shalt be hanged hys.
And byrdes shall bere thy flesshe awaye.
Deth must thou suffre there is no remedye
And the butler nede not to fraye
For his olde offyce euen as I saye
He shall haue and for euer kepe it styll
And of kynge Pharaos to haue all his wyll
¶ Butler sayd Joseph yet remembre me
Whan that thou comest to thyne offyce agayne
Where thou shalt of euery thyng haue plente
Forgete not poore Joseph that lyeth here in payne
And yf thou here any man on me do complayne
In chambere or hall at bedde or borde
I praye the gentyll butler gyue me thy good worde
¶ The baker and the butler kynge Pharaos se wolde.
On the morowe he sente for them bothe
Jacob.

Than founde they true all that Joseph tolde
The butler to his offyce that daye gothe
But the poore baker to tell you the sothe
On a gybet he made his ende.
And y butler in pharaos courte thā had many a frende
¶ So on a nyght kynge Pharaos in his bed laye.
He thought in his slepe that myghty beestes seuen
Fayrer nor fatter sawe he neuer before that daye
They ete corne and grasse of them dyde he dreame.
And euer he thought they came fro a streame
That was in the west and than downe by a stone
These fayre beestes layde them to rest euer ychone
¶ Than out of y streame comynge he sawe as many mo
That came and ete by all theyr corne clene
So feble than they were that they myght not go
For all that they had corne yet were they leue
Than sodenly Pharaos waked of his dreame.
And called to hym his men this dreame to expounde
They wyll not what it mente all y were in y grounde
¶ My lord sayd y butler there is one in your pylone.
That you do hate your dreame can he tell
If it be Joseph sayd Pharaos go fetch he hym soone
And of this matter yf he can shewe me well
I wyll forgyue hym my malyce enery dell.
Than was ytell Joseph to the kynge brought
He wende he sholde dye therfore he toke grete thought.
¶ Than Pharaos to Joseph all his dreame tolde.
And sayd canst thou tell me what it doth mene
And thou shalt haue plente sayd Pharaos of golde
Syr sayd Joseph I wyll shewe the of thy dreame.
What dyde sygnifye the fatte beestes seuen.

Thou shalt haue seven plentyfull yerres of whete.
And as many mo there shall be none to gete
The last bestes þ thou sawe on whiche þ dost wonder
That ete bp all the corne and yet were they lene
It betokeneth þ there is comynge. vii. yerres of hunger
And all the other plente they shall ete it clene.
As I tell the thus it doth mene
Well sayd kynge Pharaothis dreame is well expounde
Therefore wyl I make the stewarde of my grounde
Lo than was Joseph stewarde of Egypte londe
He gadereth in the corne bothe daye and nyght.
All men hym pleased bothe free and bonde
Unto Joseph dyde bowe bothe squyre and knyght
yet fayne wolde he haue knowledg and he myght.
Whether his fader and moder were on lyue
He threwe moche chaffe on the water that was lyght
That in to Israell the wynde myght it dryue
In Israell than was there hunger grete
Jacob that was Josephs fader with his sones all
Coude not gete in theyr countre brede nor mete
So grete scarlenes amonge them was fall.
As for corne had they none and mete but small.
At the last the. xi. bretherne by the see syde gan gone
They sawe where the chaffe came fletynge on the fume
Thā home to theyr fader these bretherne dyde ronne
And of the chaffe shewed hym that they dyde fynde
Out of what countre sayd Jacob sholde it come
Can ye tell whiche waye cometh the wynde
It came out of Egypte they answered by the y. mynde
In fayth sayd his chyldren that by hym dyde stande
Now wolde to god sayd Jacob y we were in that lande

C My sones all thyder I wyll you sende
For you ryght soone I shall ordeyne a galye
Also ye shall haue golde ynough for to spende
Haste ye thyder and come agayne lyghtly
If ye tary longe for hongre I shall dye
Than they toke theyr shyp and sailed forth in dede
I praye to god sayd Jacob to be your good spede
The shyp was swyfte that they in rode
God dyde them sende also a fayre wynde
And soone they passed ouer the see brode
So acras haue forsothe gan they fynde
They cast in ancre soone to the lande they gan wynde
The fyrst man they met was an harper
That knewe Israell for he trauelyed fer
This mynstrell shewed them y^e custome of y^e coultre
Bycause they wolde to y^e court he gaue them a ryng
And bad them bere it to the porter my broder is he
The more fauour ye may haue there at your comynge
And to the stwarde for my sake he wyll you brynge
So they toke theyr lyue che at ocher
Farewel sayd y^e mynstrel recomaunde me to my broder
At y^e last these brotherne to the stwarde dyde mete
And prayed hym to haue some whete for theyr golde
Lowe on theyr knees all they gan sytte
The stwarde lyked theyr fauour & them gan beholde
And sayd out of this lande no whete shall be solde
Ye yonge men sayd Joseph of what countre are ye
Of Israell lande one Jacobs sones be we
If or Joye than the teares fell fro his eye
And so deynly lokyd a syde
Bycause his brotherne sholde hym not spy

So forth togyder they all dyde ryde
And sayd that in Israell grete hunger dyde byde
Joseph asked yf they had any mo brether yu
And they sayd ye his name was Beniamyn
¶ Than he gaue them whete they? sakes euen full
And they payde for it to hym all they? golde
Joseph sayd ye shall haue as moche as ye wyl
These bretherne thanked hym many folde.
At the last came Rubyne his sace vp to holde.
¶ Than Joseph let fall a cuppe amonge the whete
So knytted vp the bagge & bad them go to mete
¶ So they toke they? leue they wolde no longer byde
And whan they were gone thus a dayes Journey
Joseph bad men after them to ryde
And sayd brynge the agayne or they go to they? galey.
for they haue borne the kynges cuppe awaye.
The men after rode at the last them ouer toke
And made them so aferde y pyteously they dyde loke
¶ Al byde ye theues the men to them sayd
ye haue stolen a cuppe y longeth to the kyng
fro they? bakes they? bagges downe they layde
All they on other stode heuily lokynge
Good syr we haue none sayd chyld Rubyne
¶ Thā they sought y sakes as they stode on the grounde
And in Rubyns bagge the cuppe they founde
¶ God wote than that they all were wo
And looked as pale as ashes dede
To gete helpe or comforte they wylt not how to do
¶ Lo ye theues the men to them sayde
In to prylon shal ye and there to ete your brede
And bounde they? handes & ledde them to they? brother

wen ynge for to dye they knewe all none other
¶ Than Joseph sayd syrs how is this befall
That this cuppe of golde is amonge you founde
For sothe sayd they we knowe it not at all
And than fell on theyr knees to the grounde
Hens ye go not yet sayd Joseph for a. M. pounde
But yf ye wyll brynge me Beniamyn
That is your bother sayne I wolde se hym
¶ Tyll ye haue hym brought sayd Joseph tho
One of you to pledge hereshall abyde
Howe saye ye are ye agreed therto
And they answered hym ye in that tyde
¶ Than go whan ye wyll sayd Joseph god be your gyde
So they toke theyr thyp & sayled ouer the stronde
¶ On a day ytell Beniamyn that was lefte at home.
To his fader for brede he dyde praye
¶ I wys, lone sayd Jacob I haue none
And therefore I maye saye wela waye.
For nowe I lacke my fode and none gete I maye
¶ Alas sayd the chyldre agayne fader I wolde haue brede
My bely is sore for hunger alas I wolde be dede
¶ Jacob wepte so dyde Rachell also.
To se the chyldre for his brede crye.
¶ Alas they sayd nowe were we neuer so wo
Our whete is all gone and none can we bye
¶ O good god sayd Jacob for faute nowe I dye.
My sones from egypte I wolde were come full sayne.
For all this worlde hunger is the grettest payne.
¶ And as soone as they these wordes spoken had
All his sones brought whete in to the hall
¶ Than Jacob and his wyfe wared very glad

And ytell Benyamyn well knewe them all
So they shewed they: fader what dyde them befall.
And sayd that they must cary Benyamyn ouer the see
Nay þ shall ye not sayd Jacob he shall hyde with me.
¶ We were troubled for a cuppe they all sayd
That was founde in Rubyns bagge.
And we had wende verily that we sholde al haue dyed
Grete sorowe and trouble therfore we had
Than Jacob they: fader was very sad
And asked for asler that was they: brother
He is yet in Egypte they sayd it wyl be none other.
¶ Tyll we bynge Benyamyn there must he hyde.
He fareth well ynough he they sayd & hath his lyberte
Therfore we wyl hye vs thyder this nexte tye
And bynge home whete grete plente.
Alas sayd Jacob none other can I se.
Now shall I lese Benyamyn after Joseph.
In sorowe shall I lyue all the dayes of my lyf.
¶ So ouer in to Egypte Benyamyn they lad.
And before the stwarde they dyde hym bynge
Than was Joseph I trowe full glad.
Whan he saue all his bretherne before hym knelynge.
So Joseph prayed them in Ebrew to synge
And euer his eye he cast on ytell Benyamyn
Be ye sure he was glad for to se hym
¶ Then they all songe Ebrew as they: broder had
I trowe Joseph therof was fayne.
And than he called his bretherne & bad them be glad
For I am he that you solde in dottayne
Remembre ye not ye me wolde haue slayne
Alas sayd Rubyn vnto his bretherne tho.

For that same dede to deth now we shall we go.
¶ Not so sayd Joseph I forgyue you all.
And than he kyssed them euerychone
In this countre bretherne now ye abyde shall
But fyrst agayne ye must go home
And fetch all my kynrede of them leue not one
Bothe my fader and my moder byng heyder come
And in this lande they shall lyue full meryly
¶ Home they wente in to Israellonde
And tolde theyr fader good tydynges hane we brought
Joseph our broder agayne haue we founde
Whete in Egypte in a good tyme we sought
God wote that Jacob was glad in his thought
And than all the bretherne to theyr fader tolde.
Howe for .xxx. pens to a chapman they hym solde.
¶ And now fader he prayeth you to come to that lande
With all your kynne into the nyth degre
And there shall ye haue all thyng at your hande.
With a good wyll sayd Jacob hyder wyll we
To shyp they wente in all the hast that myght be
And shortly landed in Egypte the kyngdome
Joseph was glad when he herde they were come.
¶ At the last they met Joseph in Pharao's hall
There he welcomed his fader and Rachell his moder.
So for to washe comete for water he dyde call
Jacob toke p' lauier in one hande & the basyn in p' other.
And Rachell in her hande a fayre towell dyde bere.
And so to theyr sone it held for to washe his handes
¶ Nay not so sayd Joseph this not with reason standes.
¶ Than at the table his fader he dyde set
With his moder Rachell and many other mo

They. xlii. sones there serued them of mete.
On his dreame Joseph thought tho
Howe that he out of Israell dyde go
So whan he had eten thus he gan sayne
Howe are my dremes true that I had in dotayne
Howe doth the sone & the mone bowe to my hande.
And the. xli. sterres that in my dreame I dyde se
With sheues of whete throughtout the lande
Howe in dede they do folowe me.
And now in Egypte our lyfe lede we.
So than he prayed his fader to be glad.
God hath lopzoured ye haue no cause to be sad.
Howe they lyued in that countre
In grete rycheesse they dyde all habounde
Of shepe and catell they had plente
With gores / asses / & camelles full theyr grounde
Theyr kynde encreased aboute them rounde
Till it befell at last y all thyng shall haue ende.
God his messenger deth vnto them dyde sende
Howe ye that shall this booke se and rede
Do nothyng that it is contraryed of ony fable
For it is the very byble in dede.
Wher in our sayth is grounded full stable
Howe god gve his grace that we maye be able.
By merite of his passynge to heuen allende
For of this matter here I make an ende.

¶ Thus.

Here endeth the hystory of Jacob & his twelue sonnes
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